

FIVE FRIDAYS

By FRANK R. ADAMS

Indeed a Cheerful Tale

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CHAPTER XVI—Continued.

"Why, I mean see. I must have dumped 'em in the wastebasket. But the fire was all out."

Any further discussion was cut short by the violent ringing of the telephone bell inside the burning building.

"Who can be calling up at this time of night?" wondered Vida, voicing the general curiosity.

"We probably will never know," Bopp gazed dreamily into the fire. "Maybe some one saw the blaze from the mainland and is calling up about it."

"No," said Lucile, with conviction; "it's my mother. She has seen the fire from Huntington's and wants to know if I am safe. We must answer it and tell her that everything is all right."

"No one could go in there," I protested. "The fire is raging in the living room, and the walls may fall any moment."

"But mother will worry."

"What if she does?" A man under stress of excitement is sometimes unreasonably brutal.

"If you men are not brave enough," Lucile declared, with eyes flashing, "if you're so afraid of getting slinged, I'm going in to answer that telephone myself and tell my mother that I am safe."

"You wouldn't be safe if you were talking over that telephone," I was exasperated, but it was impossible to allow a girl in a flimsy negligee to go into that furnace. "Since you put it that way, I'll go."

I groped my way to the instrument, jammed the receiver to my ear and shouted, "Hello!"

"Sorry to wake you, old chap," said a male voice apologetically, "but I simply must speak to Miss Dummors."

"You go to Halifax!" I requested loudly, and, dropping the receiver, made a wild dash for the door, from which I emerged with my clothing on fire in only one or two spots.

"Thank you!" Lucile was very sweet in bestowing her gratitude. "Was she very much worried?"

"It wasn't your mother," I said shortly. "It was Mr. Blaney."

"Ned?" asked Vida; then, without waiting for an answer, "I must speak to him."

I gently restrained her.

"Blaney?" queried Lucile blankly; then, turning to me, "Your brother?"

"No relation," I returned.

"He's my fiancé," Vida explained. "Just the darlingest old Blaney that ever lived. He's waiting for me at Fair View. We were to have been married today, or yesterday, rather."

"Oh!" Lucile retired to her inner consciousness to think.

I told Vida that Blaney knew she was safe, as he had called up several times during the day.

"Where was it?"

"You were always out somewhere with Mr. Clair," I explained.

"You didn't tell Ned that, did you?"

"Why, yes, I guess I did. Why?"

"He's so jealous," sighed Vida. "It makes him furious when I talk to other men. Of course after we're married I'll train him differently, but now I have to be careful."

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when once you located her you would have kept your eye on her."

"If I had," I reminded him, "you would probably all be burnt to cinders now. There must be some plausible reason for Mrs. Green's disappearance. Suppose we don't tell her daughter right away until we try to find out what has happened. It would only cause her additional worry."

That was agreed upon.

"At any rate," Bopp said, "we can all go over to the mainland in the Merry Widow and get breakfast."

"No," declared Bill, shaking his head. "Merry Widow she ain't run. She broke her valve spring. Maybe it take all day to fix her up."

"Then for heaven's sake get at it!" Bopp growled crossly.

"I'll fix him up with some wire myself," Bill cheerfully promised as he departed.

Lucile and Vida rejoined us presently.

"I have some breakfast for you," I announced.

"Soup?" Bopp uttered the word sarcastically.

"Oh, Tootles!" murmured Lucile. "I forgot," I said. "Tootles is found. I found Tootles last night."

"Where is my little sweetheart now?"

"In the summer house," I replied.

"Oh, my Tootles girl," she exclaimed, "locked up in that cold barn of a place all night!"

"I was there," I reminded her. "I stood it all right."

Lucile started out as fast as she could for the summer house.

"Wait a minute," I protested, wishing to explain about the reporter.

"Wait," she flashed at me, "when Tootles was here? Never!"

Lucile broke into a run when she saw that I was following her and reached the door of the summer house first. When I arrived I heard a scream.

CHAPTER XVII.
Explanations.

THE picture was a trifle startling. On the floor lay the reporter, his face twisted up into an agonized expression, while Tootles stood over him, feebly licking his face, her little red tongue hardly able to reach.

"Oh, Lucile!" screamed jumping up and down in her excitement, "he's killing Tootles!"

"I'm afraid I laughed. Anyway, she can't look of reproach at me and made a dive for the tired little pup. Tootles went through the door and dashed, barking, up the bench. Lucile followed after.

They were too fast for me. The last I saw of them was a tiny bobbing speck—that was Tootles—and a larger graceful figure with hair blowing free and kimono flying back, which was Lucile.

"What's all the excitement?" the reporter demanded. "Who's the pup?"

"We had a fire," I returned wearily. "Mr. Green's house burned down."

"Everybody asleep, I suppose," the reporter sketched in the story from imagination. "You, the faithful watchman, see the flames, dash into the burning building and rescue the owner's beautiful daughter. It's a peach of a story. It's too good you can't marry her," he added, eyeing me ruefully. "You've got a wife and seven kids, I suppose."

"I have not," I retorted.

"Then you can marry her,"

"Thank you."

"I mean you're not so terribly old and you might look all right if you washed your face and had some decent clothes."

For the first time I realized that I must be a pretty sad looking object. My clothes were wet, worn, singed and thoroughly mussed from having been slept in and rained on.

I looked at him sharply. "What size collar do you wear?"

"Fourteen and a half," he replied glibly.

I rolled him over and removed the collar and necktie as carefully as possible. It was a fifteen and a half.

"Because you lied I shall confiscate the necktie also."

"No," he shouted, interpreting my glance, "you couldn't wear another thing of mine."

"I'm afraid we coincide only in the neck," I sighed regretfully.

"Look here," he began belligerently, "don't you think this farce has gone far enough? I demand to be released. If you let me go now I'll promise not to have you put in jail, and if you'll get me a picture of Miss Green I'll give you \$5."

"No," I decided absently.

"What will you do with me?"

"I don't know. It has been punting me. You know more about crime than I do. What do you suggest?" I measured the height of his collar with my eye. "I can't say that I care much for your selection of collar style."

"If you aren't going to let me go," continued the young man, whose mind seemed to dwell constantly on himself, "when is breakfast?"

"There, you have ruined an otherwise perfect day. No one knows when, where or what breakfast is."

"No breakfast?" he questioned.

"Nope; nary breakfast."

He sighed. "There's a cigar in my—" He started to tell me which pocket when he recollected my propensity for confiscating his property.

"It's all right," I assured him. "I'm not smoking at present."

"In my left hand upper vest pocket," he faltered.

I found a dead leather case in the pocket he had indicated. I opened the case, and a handful of crumpled tobacco fell out.

"I'm afraid I set on it," I said apologetically.

He turned his face to the wall with

out a word. I left him alone with the dust of his last cigar.

When I had gone a short distance I heard him sneeze.

When I was satisfied that I had done the best I could to rearrange my disordered clothes and then I rejoined the discomfited group at the site of the one time house. There were only four of them—Captain Perkins, Jim, Vida and Kent. Lucile had not returned.

"Where's Lucile?" Vida inquired.

"Tootles got away," I explained, "and she chased her."

"But Tootles is here," Vida indicated the dog playing around the shed. "She came back quite awhile ago with this in her mouth."

Vida help up the torn and dirty remnants of what had been Lucile's kimono.

"That's Lucile's kimono!" I cried.

An idea struck me. "What was she wearing under that?"

"I helped her put on my costume," Vida vouchsafed, "the one that was drying in the shed. It fits her beautifully."

"Then I presume that you will find Lucile over there behind that clump of bushes," I hazarded in a loud tone. There was a sound of branches breaking and leaves rustling as if



A Cry From the Tug Started Us. Some one were beating a hasty retreat.

"Oh, I see!" Light dawned on Vida. "Just let her alone. She'll get used to them in an hour or so. You do feel kind of funny at first. Now about that breakfast."

"Yes," Bopp chimed in, "produce that feast you were speaking of. With the dog in sight we'll take a chance on anything you've prepared."

"Sally ho!" cried Jim.

"Where be she?" demanded his superior.

"Coming around the point," Jim replied.

Sure enough, a fat little tugboat was nosing her way comfortably through the waves into the cove. "It's the revenue tug!" exclaimed Captain Perkins, whose knowledge of lake craft was naturally superior to that of the rest of us.

"A revenue tug?" Bopp repeated.

"What is she doing here?"

"Let's go and find out."

The tug came in as far as she dared, and then an officer came ashore in a dinghy.

"Pardon me, ladies and gentlemen," he began suavely, taking no notice of our disheveled appearance. "I am the revenue officer in charge of this district."

A cry from the tug startled us.

"What's that?" we exclaimed.

The yell was repeated, this time with a smothered snarl.

"It's just a couple of prisoners we captured this morning," explained the officer.

"We are very glad to see you and your boat," Bopp stated, doing the honors. "We have had a terrible fire here, and if you will set us safely ashore at Fair View we shall be forever in your debt."

"I'm sorry," he replied, "but I cannot carry your party as passengers. Being on government service, my duties are very exacting. However, I shall be glad to notify the first vessel I meet and request them to call for you."

"But, man," Bopp exclaimed, "we have been without anything to eat for three days! Surely you can't refuse to take us to some place where food may be had."

"You forget that I have provided food," I interposed.

"I'm trying to forget it," Bopp replied, with ungracious impatience. "I want regular food."

"The lake is calming down," the officer pointed out, "and you can surely get ashore soon. As it happens, we are hot on the trail of a gang of smugglers, and if we delay now the chief operator may escape us. He is posing as a telephone repair man employed by the local company in Fair View, but merely uses that position to cloak his criminal operations. He was sent to Green's Island before the storm and has not reported back to the office, so we presume that he is here now."

By a common impulse we looked for Kent. He was not among us. Apparently he had waited to hear no more after Captain Perkins had identified the boat as in the government revenue service.

"I can't believe that he is a smuggler," Vida argued. She, like the rest of us, had conceived a liking for the young man whose career had been so varied and interesting. "He doesn't look like a smuggler."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Proof of World's Great Age.

When we come to prehistoric man, Australia is yesterday. Discoveries made of skulls in various parts of Europe show that a low class of primitive man lived upon earth at least 250,000 years ago, and for 25,000 years a high type of man inhabited what is now central France.

FEW PERSONS REALLY HAPPY

Whatever the Cause, the Great Majority of People Fail to Make the Best of Their Lives.

The other night we chanced to ask an eminent physician of New York city his opinion as to the number of people who were truly happy. His rather dogmatic reply was:

"About one in a hundred."

And this was not the opinion of a pessimist, but of a most radical optimist.

We wonder if this opinion is shared by others. It does not mean, of course, that ninety-nine people out of a hundred are deeply unhappy—that would be absurd. But there is no doubt that a great many people are quite unhappy a good deal of the time, perhaps not half the time, but enough rather to cloud their lives.

We should like to know the opinion of physicians generally. More and more people go to the doctors to tell them their troubles. The physician of today takes the place of the confessor of yesterday.

Then, too, there is the new application of psychology to the field of medicine—the so-called psycho-analysis, which is so rapidly taking its place as an important part, literally, of the medical pharmacopeia. This new science has given a wonderful insight into our subconscious selves and reveals how far that subconscious self really dominates our lives and determines the amount of happiness which we really get out of this confused welter of existence.—New York Tribune.

Arbitration! By BOOTH TARKINGTON Of The Vigilantes.

In wartime the strike is not the remedy for profiteering. Profiteering that brings on a strike is, in effect, not better than treason; but a strike may itself be an attempt to "profiteer" and therefore not better in result than treason. Every sensible person, however, understands that workmen are entitled to as high wages as they can get without interfering with the utmost possible efficiency of industry engaged in the prosecution of the war. A strike does interfere with such efficiency, and therefore means a larger casualty list and increased danger to the country. That is to say: if I am a war industry workman on strike I am prolonging the war and adding to the risk of America's defeat in the war. This means that I cause death and wounds to a certain number of American boys who would have come home safe and sound to their mothers if I hadn't gone on strike. That is the simple truth; and if I am impeding a war industry by going on strike, I might just as well have torn and tortured the bodies of those boys myself. The responsibility is so terrible that no workman who understands it would take it, except to avoid a greater amount of torture and death at home through starvation wages.

Arbitration will give him what he needs and what he justifiably wants. The whole country understands that a workman cannot live today on the wages of ten years ago. Wages have got to advance, of course, as the price of commodities advances; and the price of commodities advances, of course, as wages advance; though it is to the advantage of the workman to let the price of commodities begin to advance first. But his wages must take account of higher prices, and permit him not only life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, but allow him to save, as well. That is all that any man on this earth is entitled to whether he be garbage man or Kaiser; and it is all that is worth getting; and the ideal of this country is that every man shall have it. This is what we are fighting for; that no man shall take away this right from another man, and that no man shall make another man his slave, as the Germans have made conquered labor their slave and as they would make slaves of us if they conquered us.

Now such is the temper of our country that the responsibility for a strike which means more death, more crippling, more blinding, more shot away faces, for our young men, sons of workmen and sons of capitalists, fighting side by side and comrades "over there," as they will be over here when they come home—the responsibility for such a strike is an infinitely heavier and more dangerous thing than those who rashly assume that responsibility can know, and no decent human being could be so selfish and so treacherous to his country as knowingly to bring about such a strike.

The temper of the country in these days is to know causes as well as results. Where the greediness of a profiteer has caused a strike, his money will not be evicted him for he shall not have it, nor his liberty either. And it is unthinkable that American workmen, or workmen who are human beings, for that matter—it is unthinkable that they will strike, even for mere justice, without having to the last utmost atom of their energy pressed for settlement by arbitration.

The syndicate system, founded by Samuel Gompers and representing the point of view of the American Federation of Labor, reports an address by William Moses, president of the Pattern Makers' Union of Great Britain. Mr. Moses was speaking in the Labor Temple in San Francisco. He said: "We were requested to arbitrate our working rules and agreements . . . give up everything that tended to restrict output. . . . Being convinced that this was necessary, unless we desired to see the entire world subjugated by German autocracy, we recommended that our unions submit to the request made by the government."

This meant that there was to be no stoppage of work during the war. It meant the acceptance of compulsory arbitration. . . . We have secured better results through arbitration than by resorting to the strike, which should be used as a last resort after all else has failed. If this is done, the strike weapon will rest in its scabbard."

And Mr. Moses said another thing worth thinking about. "Today labor in Great Britain is more prosperous than ever before in its history. . . . Our influence is greater than ever before and our workers are enjoying wealth beyond the dream of avarice."

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JAPANESE RICE CULTIVATION.

Twelve thousand square miles—7,680,000 acres—constitute the rice land of Japan, which feeds a nation of about 50,000,000 people on an average of a pound a day for each person. It takes 135 days to grow a crop of rice, and in Japan the laborious work of cultivation is done almost entirely by hand.

WHALE AS FOOD.

In the fifteenth century the whale was frequently brought into requisition for gastronomic purposes. It was found on the English royal table as well as on that of the lord mayor of London. The cook either roasted it and served it up on the spit, or boiled it and sent it in with peas; the tongue and the tail were favorite parts.

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